

California Dairy Women Association

619 S. Vincent Rd.

Turlock, Ca. 95380

March 12, 2012

Ms. Karen Ross

Secretary of Agriculture
California Department of Food & Agriculture
Executive Office
1220 N street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **Petition for Hearing Regarding California's Class 4b Milk Pricing Formula**

Dear Secretary Ross:

The California Dairy Women Association fully supports the Petitions filed by Western United Dairymen and the Coalition formed by California Dairies, Inc., the Dairy Farmers of America, Land O' Lakes, Inc., the Security Milk Producers Association, the Milk Producers Council, the California Dairy Campaign, and the Alliance of Western Milk Producers. This Petition requests a hearing at which the Coalition will ask the California Department of Food to replace the current Class 4b milk pricing formula with a formula that results in prices that meet the statutory requirement of a reasonable and sound economic relationship to the national value of manufactured milk products. California dairy families have suffered great material losses and irreparable harm caused as a result of the inequity in pricing.

California dairymen have not recovered the money and equities lost due to the low prices of 2009. They cannot endure these losses again in 2012. Feed prices are double along with increases in fuel and environmental costs. This inequity in price is almost criminal.

California dairy families also need an emergency price increase. If something is not done soon California will lose many of our dairy families and their vendors. The CDFA's responsibility is not only to the California consumer and processor but to **the California Dairy Producer.**

Respectfully,

Linda Lopes, President of CDWA